

Rollcall No. 37—"yes"—Petri of Wisconsin Amendment No. 5.

Rollcall No. 38—"yes"—Davis of Illinois Amendment.

Rollcall No. 39—"no"—To amend and extend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes.

Rollcall No. 40—"yes"—To amend and extend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes.

Rollcall No. 41—"yes"—Congratulating Lee Myung-Bak on his election to the Presidency of the Republic of Korea and wishing him well during his time of transition and his inauguration on February 25, 2008.

Rollcall No. 42—"yes"—Recovery Rebates and Economic Stimulus for the American People Act of 2008.

HONORING THE LIFE AND WORK OF MARY ISAAK

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to recognize the passing of Mary Isaak, a Petaluma activist who was committed to the noble struggle of helping the less fortunate overcome homelessness. Mary died of congestive heart failure last month at the age of 88, leaving an enduring legacy to the people of Petaluma, California through the establishment of COTS—the Committee on the Shelterless.

After receiving a music degree from the University of Oregon, Mary moved to Berkeley, where she met her future husband, who later tired of the area and moved his family to what was then rural California—to the egg basket of the State, Petaluma. There, Mary raised five children and taught at Live Oak High, the small school she started on their 22-acre ranch.

Mary's life of community service continued in the late 1980s, when she and Laure Reichel noticed the increasing number of homeless in the area and determined to obviate the problem. In 1988, they founded COTS. I was on the Petaluma City Council during this time and had the good fortune to work with Mary and Laure in facilitating the establishment of this incredible organization, dedicated to housing homeless families.

"It eventually took on a life of its own," says John Records, COTS current executive director. "It activated something in the community and it gave people the opportunity to help. It offered a way to get involved."

In a town of 55,000 residents, the nonprofit registered more than 50,000 volunteer hours last year alone. These volunteers helped prepare and serve more than 100,000 meals besides working on other programs the facility offers.

The community embraced COTS because Mary set an example, volunteering for countless tasks and remaining on the board of directors.

"Even as she aged and became less strong, she continued to be involved," Records notes.

In 2004, COTS recognized Mary's vision and commitment by naming its new housing facility in her honor—the Mary Isaaks Center. The center houses beds for 300, provides be-

tween 50,000 and 100,000 bed-nights per year, and its kitchen offer more than half a million pounds of food each year to the hungry and homeless of Petaluma. Other programs thrive, as well. For example, recently COTS added an innovative pilot trauma center to its services.

Madam Speaker, it is impossible to measure the impact Mary Isaak's work has had on the individuals—both homeless and volunteers—and on the community of my hometown of Petaluma. She leaves to the community a legacy of compassion and involvement that the world would do well to follow. She will be greatly missed.

INTRODUCING LEGISLATION TO UPGRADE THE SECURITY OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY CARD

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, today, along with my colleague Mr. ROSKAM, I am introducing legislation requiring the Social Security Administration to develop secure Social Security cards to combat the rising problem of identity theft and immigration fraud.

Since Social Security started in 1935, more than 450 million Social Security cards have been issued. Over the years, we've had 50 card variations, but all have one common element—they are too easy to counterfeit.

According to a 2005 Government Accountability Office report, employers reported the use of 1.4 million Social Security numbers that don't exist. Additionally, nearly 1.7 million numbers have been used by multiple individuals, some as many as 500 times or more.

In 2006, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials made 1,272 arrests for identity and benefit fraud. While there is no central database for confiscated fraudulent Social Security card statistics, regional illegal document rings illustrate a systemic problem.

Last April, Federal agents arrested 23 individuals and broke up an illegal document ring in the Little Village neighborhood of Chicago. Officials estimated that up to 100 fake Social Security cards were issued each day at the location. According to the Northern Illinois U.S. Attorney's Office, the enterprise netted \$3 million per year for a violent Mexico-based crime syndicate.

ICE broke up a similar ring in the same neighborhood in December 2005. Last October, Cook County Sheriff's detectives arrested two individuals for manufacturing hundreds of fake identification documents in Chicago's West Lawn neighborhood. Outside of the Chicago area, one ICE raid in Washington, DC, netted 880 fake Social Security cards.

In Waukegan, police raids discovered numerous crimes of identity theft, including criminals purchasing homes and cars with stolen Social Security numbers. For as little as \$100, an individual in Waukegan can purchase a fake Social Security card.

It's time we upgrade Social Security cards with photos and biometric data like a fingerprint to protect seniors from identity theft and prevent draining of Social Security trust funds.

Many government agencies already use secure IDs, including the Department of De-

fense. An ID with a bar code embedded with biometric data, as well as a picture, will help prevent counterfeiting. We have the technology now—there is no excuse to use a document that anyone can forge at a Kinkos.

To protect seniors, fight identity theft and defend our homeland, I urge my colleagues to join this effort.

HONORING TOM H. SPARKS

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and pay tribute to Tom H. Sparks of St. Joseph, Michigan, who is celebrating his 100th birthday.

Mr. Sparks was born in a log cabin with a dirt floor and sod roof in Oklahoma in 1908. He was taken out of school at the age of 14 when he went to work to support his family. He was a member of the "Greatest Generation" and served his country with distinction and honor in World War II in the European Theatre.

Mr. Sparks has been a resident of St. Joseph, Michigan for more than 80 years. To say that Tom Sparks is a man who has been active in his community would be a gross understatement. Mr. Sparks has rarely missed a meeting of the St. Joseph City Commission over the last eight decades. He was first elected to serve on the St. Joseph City Commission in 1948 and served as Mayor of his adopted hometown from 1955 to 1963. Even into his 90s—his name appeared on the ballot seeking a seat on the City Commission.

Mr. Sparks retired from the City of Benton Harbor as assistant to the superintendent and a building inspector in 1975 at the age of 67. As part of his birthday celebration, it is fitting he is being recognized by City Commissioners in St. Joseph.

FREEDOM FOR CARLOS MARTÍN GOMEZ

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remind my colleagues about Carlos Martín Gomez, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba who continues his struggle to bring human rights and dignity to the people of Cuba.

In 2000 Cuban regime thugs arrested Mr. Martín for "desecrating" the thug-in-chief Fidel Castro. How exactly does one desecrate a tyrannical despot? In Mr. Martín's case by going to the Jose Martí Airport and calling out loud for the end of Fidel Castro's oppression of the Cuban people. Such a brave act earned Mr. Martín a 4-year sentence in the gulag.

The regime may have thought they could quiet Mr. Martín's calls for the end to the dictatorship by throwing him into a prison to suffer under unbearable conditions. But Mr. Martín would not let the walls of the gulag suffocate his continued calls for a free Cuba. Because of his continued crusade to bring freedom to